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June 29, 2021

President Clint Lorimore and Regional Council Members
Southern California Association of Governments
900 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90017

RE: SoCal Greenprint - Special Hearing Request

Dear President Lorimore and Regional Council Members:

On behalf of the business, industry and community organizations subscribing to this letter, we write today as a Business Coalition to express our ongoing concern regarding the development of the SoCal Greenprint. On April 30, 2021, a diverse coalition of business and community interests submitted a letter to your predecessor outlining several serious concerns with the development of the SoCal Greenprint. A month and a half have passed since that letter and no

resolution or meaningful discussion has occurred with our Business Coalition on the points raised. With a project completion date rapidly approaching, we believe discussion of all concerns is urgently needed. We are therefore requesting immediate action and join the call of many local elected officials from the SCAG region for a Special Hearing on the SoCal Greenprint.

Our call for a Special Hearing on the Greenprint is not borne from a concern over gathering facts and data related to our region's land inventory. Rather it is the lack of clarity around the policies that will govern the use of the Greenprint data that generates our concern. It should not come as a surprise to SCAG that many of the organizations in our Coalition have strong concerns about policies related to land use planning and mapping. These very issues have been at the heart of the business community's concerns with the past three RTP/SCSs (starting in 2012). And while in each case we have been able to work with SCAG and address our concerns to a satisfactory level, the principle behind our concerns has always been the same. We understand that as our region's preeminent planning agency, what SCAG does and says related to the policies in its land use plans and reports have impact. Done right, SCAG's policies and plans can achieve positive results for our region, but when these policies are not well developed, they can have unintended consequences and work against important SCAG goals related to housing and infrastructure.

It is in this context that our Coalition has observed and tried to evaluate Greenprint. What we have seen is SCAG referring to Greenprint often as simply "an innovative online regional mapping tool" while also regularly stating that, "the goals of SoCal Greenprint are to protect, restore, and enhance natural lands, public greenspace, working lands and water resources ...". In this way, SCAG's messaging around Greenprint makes clear that this document is not meant as a passive data set, but rather as an active tool with a clear purpose of impacting our region's land use planning. Given this, it is more than fair that our Coalition, local government, and many other stakeholders might have legitimate and important questions about the policy implications of Greenprint and how it might impact the RTP/SCS, local General Plans as well as both intended and unintended potential impacts on growth and development. Pausing to address these questions and fully evaluate potential benefits and impacts of Greenprint seems particularly appropriate for a region, such as SCAG's, which is at this very moment calling upon its 197 cities and counties to undertake the challenging task of planning for and accommodating the production of 1.3 million housing units over the next eight years.

With this in mind, and in light of the many questions and concerns surrounding the development and potential impacts of the SoCal Greenprint, we respectfully request that SCAG hold a Special Hearing on this topic. We ask that you join the signatories on this letter, local

elected officials and all those interested in transparent, inclusive, and accountable government in calling for an immediate hearing on the Greenprint.

Sincerely,



Richard Lambros, Managing Director
Southern California Leadership Council



Tracy Hernandez, Chief Executive Officer
Los Angeles County Business Federation (BizFed)



Lucy Dunn, President & CEO
Orange County Business Council (OCBC)



Paul Granillo, President & CEO
Inland Empire Economic Partnership (IEEP)



Maria Salinas, President & CEO
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce



Jon Switalski, Executive Director
Rebuild SoCal Partnership



Ray Baca, Executive Director
Engineering Contractors' Association (ECA)



Mario Rodriguez, Chairman
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William R. Manis

William R. Manis, President & CEO
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